



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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VOLUSIA COUNTY MAN ARRESTED BY FEDERAL AGENTS
FOR MAILING ANTHRAX HOAX

Orlando, Florida – United States Attorney Paul I. Perez today announced the arrest of Wayne Dale Allen, Jr., 38, of DeLeon Springs, Florida, for mailing an anthrax hoax. Allen was indicted the day before by a federal grand jury in Orlando, Florida, for violating Title 18 United States Code, Section 876.

The one count indictment alleges that Allen mailed a threatening communication to the Volusia County Soil Conservation Office in October 2001. As stated in open court, during the height of anthrax hoaxes occurring throughout the United States Allen went to the local K-Mart, bought envelopes, notebook paper, a red marker, some BC Powder, and a book of stamps. The government also alleges that Allen wrote a note with the red marker that said, "BOYKIN and you other low lifes. Better watch your back. I'm watching you. Your wife and kids are next." ALLEN put two packets of BC Powder inside the envelope with the one page note and mailed it to the Soil Conservation office in Deland, Florida.

When the letter was opened and the white BC Powder was discovered inside, the Volusia County Fire department was called. The fire department responded with its hazardous materials unit, the area was sealed off, and the white powder was tested for anthrax by the County Health Department. The government also alleges that Allen had been in a dispute with officials at the Soil Conservation Office over use of his land.

The maximum statutory penalty for violations of 18 U.S.C. § 876 is five years' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both, plus restitution to any victim of the offense.

The case was investigated by agents with the United States Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General, and the United States Postal Inspection Service. Assistant United States Attorney Bruce S. Ambrose is prosecuting the case.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.

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